



**AFRICAN FEMINIST MACROECONOMIC ACADEMY**  
The Audacity to Disrupt

# EXPLORING FEMINIST APPROACHES TO FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

## AFMA REGIONAL - 2024 REPORT

7th - 11th October 2024. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



# Acknowledgements



The African Women's  
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## AFMA 2024 Report was coordinated by:

**Nicole Maloba** - Economic Justice and Rights Lead, FEMNET

**Grace Namugambe** - Program Officer - Economic Justice, FEMNET

**Julie Okiro** - Communications, FEMNET

## Facilitated by:

**Mwanahamisi Singano, Leah Eryenyu, Busi Sibeko and Dr. Priscilla Twumasi**

## Design & layout:

**Charles Lenjo**

[www.behance.net/charleslenjo](http://www.behance.net/charleslenjo)



## Introduction

The African Feminist Macroeconomy Academy (AFMA) is a dynamic platform that gathers African feminist practitioners, women's rights organizations, feminist movements, and researchers across Africa to strengthen their capacity, foster knowledge, and promote advocacy for women's economic justice and rights. Over the years, FEMNET and its partners have made significant strides in advocating for women's economic autonomy, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic's onset in 2020. However, there remains an urgent need to integrate feminist perspectives into analyzing macroeconomic policies including but not limited to trade policies, care economy, as well as monetary and fiscal policy. These critical economic components largely influence women's lived experiences across the continent.

Since 2017, AFMA has been a crucial learning and exchange platform, supporting African women's movements and women's rights activists in challenging and dismantling structural barriers that hinder gender equality. Through structured learning events, AFMA targets activists, movement leaders, academics, journalists, and members of diverse networks working towards women's rights, economic justice, and broader gender equality goals.

AFMA aims to deepen participants' appreciation of how macroeconomic policies directly shape women's lives and explore how grassroots efforts can transform these policies. Additionally, AFMA generates research that informs advocacy, ensuring that feminist economic analyses are continually tied to the broader goal of influencing policymaking at national and international levels.



# Contextual Background: Financing for Development

The 2024 AFMA program focused on *Exploring Feminist Approaches to Financing for Development*, a theme that resonates deeply within Africa's contemporary economic landscape. **According to the African Union (AU), Africa faces a financing gap of USD 1.6 trillion, which must be addressed by 2030 if the continent is to achieve its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under Agenda 2030.** A large portion of this financing gap is attributed to inadequate domestic resource mobilization, regressive tax structures, and the pervasive influence of international financial institutions (IFIs) that impose austerity measures detrimental to development priorities.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the already critical financing challenges African countries faced, leading to **increased inequality, unemployment, and poverty circumstances that disproportionately affect women.** Women, who bear the largest share of unpaid care work and are frequently employed in low-wage, informal sectors, are most vulnerable to the economic fallout from such crises. Despite efforts to implement gender-responsive budgeting and improve women's leadership representation, much remains to be done to address the structural inequalities deeply rooted in Africa's macroeconomic policies.

AFMA's exploration of feminist approaches to Financing for Development (FfD) seeks to center the voices of African women in discussions about macroeconomic policy. Feminist scholars argue that traditional economic systems are ill-equipped to address the specific challenges women face in an economy largely shaped by patriarchal and neo-colonial structures. The FfD process is an opportunity to advocate for feminist demands such as tax justice, debt justice, a fair and inclusive care economy, and climate reparations.

## AFMA's Goals and Objectives

The AFMA event held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from October 7th to 11th, 2024, sought to empower women's rights activists by equipping them with tools to influence macroeconomic policymaking. The academy encouraged participants to understand how macroeconomic policies affect women's lives and to develop strategies to disrupt economic structures that reinforce gender inequalities. Participants were also trained to connect their local advocacy efforts to broader economic justice frameworks.

## AFMA Structure and Modules

AFMA was a 5-day convening comprising a series of thematic modules that blended theoretical discussions with practical activities. These sessions covered critical topics related to feminist macroeconomic analysis, Financing for Development, debt and tax justice, trade, and climate change. Each module aimed to ground participants in Africa's economic landscape's realities and highlight the potential for feminist approaches to transform macroeconomic systems.

The following modules were presented during AFMA:

### 1. Introduction to Feminist Macroeconomics

This module introduced participants to feminist economics, which critiques mainstream economic systems for ignoring the contributions of unpaid care work and informal labor—areas where women are overrepresented. The session also explored how traditional economic policies exacerbate gender inequalities.

### 2. Political Economy of Africa

This module provided an overview of Africa's political economy, focusing on the historical and structural factors that shape the continent's economic trajectory. Particular emphasis was placed on the role of women in sustaining African economies through unpaid and informal labor.



### 3. Systemic Issues: Debt and Tax Justice

Participants learned about the structural debt crisis facing many African countries and how tax systems often fail to provide sufficient public revenue to support gender equality initiatives. Feminist alternatives to current tax policies were discussed, focusing on how tax justice can redistribute wealth and power.

### 4. Trade, Public-Private Partnerships and Climate Justice

This module examined the intersection of trade, technology, and climate change through a feminist lens. Participants explored how global trade policies and the digital economy disproportionately affect African women, and how feminist movements can advocate for climate reparations and sustainable development.

## Participant Profile and Demographics

The 2024 AFMA cohort in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, comprised 38 participants from Ghana, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Liberia, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Togo, South Africa, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Kenya. These individuals come from diverse sectors, including civil society organizations, media, universities, and feminist movements. This group brought a wide range of perspectives to discussions on development finance, tax justice, and gender equality. The cohort emphasized gender inclusivity and the role of feminist activism in advocating for fair economic policies. The participants mostly were young professionals aged 25 years and above with grassroots experiences, and academic and media insights to explore issues impacting marginalized populations. Their varied regional and international backgrounds further enriched the dialogue, making it a dynamic and multifaceted engagement.



## DAY ONE

The AFMA meeting opened with welcome remarks from Ms. Sylvia Daulinga, Strategic Manager of Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA). She commended the participants for their commitment to advancing gender equality and reminded them that TAMWA had been advocating for women's rights for over 37 years. The event's introduction set a warm and interactive tone for the upcoming discussions.



*Ms. Sylvia Daulinga from TAMWA during an opening session at the AFMA, 2024 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.*

“TAMWA believes that lasting change comes from consistent advocacy empowering women and children is at the heart of everything we do.

- Miss Sylvia Daulinga, Strategic Manager of Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA)

## Introduction to African Feminism(s)

The first session was led by Ms. Mwanahamisi Singano who introduced the topic of African feminism, emphasizing its unique place in feminist discourse. African feminism, she argued, is distinct from Western feminist narratives because it centers on the lived realities of African women, including their struggles against colonialism, race-based discrimination, and neo-colonial economic systems.

Ms. Mwanahamisi's presentation also explored different strands of feminism, such as radical feminism, liberal feminism, and African feminism. She stressed that African feminism is inherently intersectional, considering the multiple identities and power dynamics that shape African women's experiences.

**Gender Inequality in Africa and the Role of Power:** Participants explored the role of power in perpetuating gender inequality in Africa, discussing various dimensions of power: Power in media: 'Who owns the media, and why does that matter?' was a question posed by the facilitator. The media's role in perpetuating biases, particularly those related to gender and race, was heavily critiqued.

The session delved into the idea that female leadership does not always equate to feminist leadership. The group debated how to reconcile being a feminist with disagreements on feminist principles. Ms. Mwanahamisi encouraged unity while allowing for diverse perspectives.



*Ms. Mwanahamisi Singano presenting during a session at AFMA 2024, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.*

# Introduction to Feminist Macroeconomics

**Facilitator: Ms. Busi Sibeko**

This session began with an activity where participants were asked to discuss what feminist economics means to them.

Key concepts discussed included:

Feminist Economics: A critique of mainstream economics, which often overlooks the contributions of non-market production (such as domestic labor).

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**The world is economically wrongly structured. The system was never designed with women in mind.**

**Most of the economic activities that occur in households are overlooked because they are considered non-productive.**

- Ms. Busi

”



*Ms. Busi Sibeko presenting in a session on Feminists Macroeconomics during the AFMA in Dar es Salaam*



## Fiscal Policy Discussion

The group discussed the difference between national and household budgets. Participants shared insights from their respective countries, identifying issues such as corruption, economic patriarchy, and unequal access to resources.

**Ms. Busi Sibeko** explained fiscal space, the difference between revenues and expenditures is changing and can have long-term consequences. She emphasized that decisions made today will affect future generations: **'Policy decisions today determine the well-being of our future, but many governments fail to think long-term.'**

*The construction of a new patriarchal order, making women the servants of the male workforce, was a major aspect of capitalist development. On its basis, a new sexual division of labor could be enforced that differentiated not only the tasks that women and men should perform but also experiences, their lives, and their relation to capital and other sectors of the working class. Thus no less than the international division of labor, the sexual division within the workforce, while being an immense boost to capital accumulation"* - Federici (2021)

## Austerity Economics and the Global Financial Crisis

The discussion moved to austerity economics, a policy approach used by governments to reduce budget deficits through spending cuts and tax increases. Participants reflected on the disproportionate impact of austerity measures on women, particularly in areas like public services.

## Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB)

The concept of Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) was introduced as a feminist approach to making fiscal policy. GRB recognizes that expenditure and taxation policies affect men and women differently and can perpetuate gender inequalities if not addressed. The facilitator shared examples of how GRB has been mainstreamed in some countries but remains ineffective when not applied to transformative goals. Participants were encouraged to consider how GRB could be applied in their local contexts to achieve greater gender equality. The day ended with participants engaging in reflection activities. The discussions considered how feminist macroeconomic principles could be applied in their countries and discussed strategies for promoting greater economic equity.

## DAY TWO

### Feminist Re-Articulation of the Political Economy of Africa

(Facilitator: Leah Eryenyu)



**Ms. Leah Eryenyu, Political Economy Analyst;** focused on the **feminist re-articulation of the African political economy**, challenging the traditional economic narratives that exclude or marginalize women's contributions. She noted that the African economy, especially in the informal sector, is largely sustained by women, yet these contributions remain unrecognized.

*The political economy, as we know it, is blind to the labor of women. Feminist re-articulation brings the voices of those in the margins to the center.*

- Leah Eryenyu

#### Key Highlights

- Ms. Leah argued that women's unpaid labor, such as caregiving, household chores, and subsistence farming, forms the backbone of many African economies, yet remains invisible in economic statistics like GDP.
- She pointed out the importance of a **feminist lens** in reshaping economic policies to acknowledge women's informal work and their critical roles in maintaining the economy.

#### Sharing Personal Stories

Participants were split into groups to reflect on how the economy of their country or Africa, in general, has affected them at a personal level. Each group shared one story to illustrate the economic struggles faced by women and the personal triumphs that emerged despite systemic challenges.

- Story 1:** Anita Dywaba from South Africa recounted how her mother, post-apartheid, worked several jobs to support the family. Despite limited opportunities, her mother went back to school and earned a Ph.D.
- Story 2:** Radiatu. H.S. Kahnplaye from Liberia, spoke about how her mother, in a polyamorous relationship, struggled to raise five children after her father left, but eventually achieved success by ensuring her children finished school.



Participants sharing stories about the topic presented during AFMA Session in Dar es Salaam

Ms. Leah emphasized the importance of marginalized groups in the re-articulation of the economy, advocating for a method that moves these groups from the margins to the center of economic discourse.

## Political Economy Analysis - Feminist Perspectives

In this session, Ms. Leah provided a **feminist analysis of political economy**, focusing on the intersections of power, labor, and wealth. She explained that feminist political economy seeks to challenge the dominant economic narratives that prioritize capital accumulation over people's well-being, particularly the well-being of women.

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Political economy isn't just about figures and facts; it's about people's lives and how power, labor, and wealth are distributed. A feminist re-articulation ensures we account for all contributions, especially those of marginalized women.

- Leah Eryenyu

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### Key Discussion Points

1. **Feminist Political Economy (FPE):** FPE emphasizes the unpaid labor of women in caregiving and social reproduction, which sustains the economy but is not reflected in traditional economic measures like GDP.
2. **Ms. Leah's Critique on Social Reproduction:** Ms. Leah highlighted that women's labor in caregiving roles supports economic production but remains unrecognized and unrewarded, contributing to economic disparities.

## Globalization and Africa's Role in the Global Capitalist System

Ms. Leah transitioned the discussion to **Africa's integration into the global capitalist system**, critiquing how globalization, rooted in colonialism, has continued to exploit African economies. She emphasized that Africa's role in global trade primarily as a supplier of raw materials—reinforces a cycle of economic dependency. Emphasis was made that



**Ms. Leah noted that colonial legacies** as the foundations of **global capitalism** are inherently imperialist, with colonial powers using Africa's resources and labour to fuel their economies. She pointed out that African nations remain trapped in a cycle of exporting raw materials while importing expensive manufactured goods—hence creating long-term economic dependency.

**Colonialism created the myth of the housewife, confining women to domestic spaces. But African women have always worked, both in fields and homes they've never been the idle housewives that colonial powers imagined.**

*- Leah Eryenyu*

## Globalization and Colonialism Through a Feminist Lens

Ms. Leah tied globalization and capitalism to **colonialism**, arguing that colonialism's three pillars—**commerce, Christianity, and civilization**—laid the groundwork for global capitalism. She explained how the exploitation of African resources and labor during the colonial era continues today through capitalist structures. Colonialism and capitalism are two forms of exploitation that continue to shape Africa's economic landscape today. Globalization has only deepened the inequality created by colonialism.

**The discussion explored more** on how **colonialism** structured power and gender relations in ways that reinforced male dominance in both public and private spheres. Women, particularly African women, were relegated to the margins of economic life, their labor rendered invisible by both patriarchal and capitalist systems.

## Decolonizing Feminist Knowledge

Ms. Leah emphasized the need for African feminists to **decolonize feminist knowledge** by challenging the dominance of Western feminist narratives that often fail to capture the experiences of African women. She argued that African feminists must create their own frameworks that reflect the lived realities of African women, rather than relying on Western-centric models. Decolonizing feminist knowledge is essential to ensuring that African women's voices and experiences are heard. We must break free from Western-centric perspectives and reclaim our own narratives.

The session concluded with a reflection on the sessions' discussions, emphasizing the importance of **feminist economic alternatives** that prioritize care, well-being, and equity. Participants agreed that feminist perspectives must be integrated into mainstream economic and political frameworks to challenge patriarchal and colonial systems of exploitation.

## Feminist Economic Alternatives

Ms. Yamina Ouldali of GADN took the participants through a session on **feminist economic alternatives** that challenge the traditional capitalist models of profit and growth. These alternatives prioritize **well-being, care, and sustainability** over GDP growth and profit maximization.

**Ms. Yamina Ouldali noted** that we need to build economies that care for people, not just profits. Feminist alternatives show us that there are different ways to structure our economies, ways that prioritize well-being and sustainability.



*Yamina Ouldali facilitating Alternative economic models for feminists against current models at AFMA sessions in Dar es Salaam*

## Feminist Economic Models

Ms. Yamina presented examples of feminist-led economic initiatives that aim to create more equitable systems. These include cooperatives, solidarity economies, and participatory budgeting models that focus on community well-being.

### Examples:

- **Homeless Workers Movement (HWM) in São Paulo, Brazil:** Women-led initiatives transformed abandoned buildings into housing for low-income families, demonstrating the power of feminist-led projects in addressing social and economic inequalities.
- **New Zealand's Wellbeing Budget (2019):** This groundbreaking budget prioritized societal well-being by measuring success through health, community strength, and environmental sustainability, rather than traditional GDP measures.

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*Feminist economic alternatives prove that we can create economies that work for everyone, not just for a privileged few. These examples from around the world show us what's possible when we prioritize care and community.*

*- Yamina Ouldali, GADN*

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## Key Takeaways from Day 2

- 1. Women's Labor in the Informal Economy.** Women's work, especially in informal sectors and caregiving roles, is vital to African economies but is often invisible in formal economic measures.
- 2. Feminist Political Economy.** Feminist perspectives challenge traditional economic systems by focusing on gendered power relations, labour, and wealth distribution.
- 3. Social Reproduction as Economic Pillar.** Unpaid care work (social reproduction) is essential for maintaining society and the economy but is not accounted for in traditional measures like GDP.
- 4. Patriarchy and Capitalism's Intersection.** Patriarchy and capitalism reinforce each other, marginalizing women by keeping them in unpaid or low-paid labor roles.
- 5. Globalization and Colonialism.** Africa's integration into the global capitalist system, rooted in colonialism, continues to exploit African economies through unequal terms of trade.
- 6. Decolonizing Feminist Knowledge.** African feminists must create frameworks that reflect the lived experiences of African women, moving away from Western feminist models.
- 7. Feminist Economic Alternatives:** Feminist economic models prioritize well-being, care, and sustainability over profit and growth, offering more equitable solutions for communities.



## DAY THREE

### Financing for Development and Tax Justice

Ms. Mayada Hassanain from International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs) took the participants through a journey on the importance of Financing for Development and the role of taxation in promoting economic justice. She unpacked the concept of gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), which recognizes the gendered impacts of public revenue and expenditure decisions. She emphasized that tax systems must be designed to support equitable development and to reduce the burden on women, particularly those in informal sectors

### Historical Context of Development

**Modernization Paradigm:** Hassanain explained that development has often been viewed through a Western lens, leading to practices that impose a one-size-fits-all model on diverse cultures.



...she emphasized. This highlights the importance of recognizing and valuing indigenous knowledge and practices in development initiatives.

This session examined the evolution of development metrics and the impact of economic policies on marginalized populations, particularly women. Hassanain emphasized the limitations of relying solely on economic growth as a measure of development, advocating for a more holistic approach that includes health and education. She critiqued the neoliberal policies of the 1980s for exacerbating inequality and discussed the harmful effects of IMF and World Bank Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs), which imposed austerity measures that disproportionately affected marginalized groups, especially women. Feminist critiques of traditional development approaches were also highlighted, stressing the importance of recognizing women as active contributors to economic progress.

The focus on key areas;

- Economic Growth as a Measure
- 1980s Economic Consensus
- IMF/World Bank Policies
- Feminist Critiques of Development
- Austerity Measures





## Critiques of Development Frameworks

**Implementation Gaps:** The lack of binding commitments in international frameworks was noted. “Without accountability, promises made at the international level remain empty,” Hassanain asserted, emphasizing the need for mechanisms that hold governments accountable for their commitments to development.

**Insufficient Financial Resources:** The heavy reliance on private investments and inadequate levels of Official Development Assistance (ODA) were highlighted as significant barriers to development. “We need a balanced approach that combines domestic resources and international support,” she stated, advocating for a multifaceted strategy to development financing.

**Equity vs. Economic Growth:** The session emphasized that economic growth must align with social justice. “Economic growth should never come at the expense of social equity,” Hassanain concluded, reinforcing the idea that equitable policies are essential for sustainable development.

**Engagement Strategies:** **Mayada** outlined various pathways for feminist and civil society organizations to engage in development advocacy, including participation in working groups focused on taxation, gender, and trade. This highlights the necessity for collaborative efforts in promoting equitable policies

## Let's Talk about Tax



Dr. Priscilla Twumasi led a discussion on financing development through taxation. She encouraged participants to share their perspectives on development and financing, highlighting the diversity of contexts and the importance of aligning growth with equitable living standards.

*We must explore innovative financing solutions to meet our development challenges.*

*- Dr. Priscilla Twumasi*

## Sources of Development Finance

During the session, **Dr. Priscilla Twumasi** highlighted various sources of development finance, beginning with the critical role of domestic resources. Dr. Twumasi stressed that **taxes, savings, and investments** serve as the bedrock of sustainable development, advocating for countries to prioritize these internal resources as a means of fostering self-reliance. In her words, "Domestic resources must be prioritized to foster self-reliance," she underscored, suggesting that nations should nurture their financial ecosystems to diminish reliance on external aid.

Turning to **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**, Dr. Twumasi acknowledged the potential of such capital inflows to inject necessary resources and expertise into developing nations. However, she was clear in her caution, noting that FDI must be carefully aligned with local development objectives, warning against the risks of exploitation by foreign investors. "FDI can bring essential capital and expertise to developing countries, but it must align with local development goals," she remarked, emphasizing the need for vigilance in managing these investments.

In the end, the discussion introduced innovative financing mechanisms as additional avenues for mobilizing resources. Instruments like public-private partnerships (PPPs) and green bonds were proposed as forward-looking strategies, providing a fresh infusion of capital to support long-term growth while addressing sustainability challenges. However, there is still some contention around these alternatives.

## Tax Justice Framework

Dr. Twumasi presented the Tax Justice Framework through the lens of the 4Rs of Taxation, which she described as key to ensuring a fair and effective tax system. The first "R," **Revenue**, emphasizes the importance of generating sufficient funds to support public services essential for development. Dr. Twumasi highlighted the critical role of taxation in providing the resources needed to finance infrastructure, education, healthcare, and other public goods.

The second "R," **Redistribution**, was introduced as a mechanism to address inequality and poverty. "Tax policies must address inequality and poverty," she asserted, pointing to the potential of taxation to create more equitable societies by redistributing wealth and ensuring that the benefits of growth are shared across all segments of the population.

The third “R,” **Repricing**, focused on using taxation to incentivize positive behavior and discourage harmful practices. Dr. Twumasi noted, “Taxation can be a tool for promoting environmentally sustainable practices,” illustrating how tax policies can be leveraged to encourage the consumption of public goods, such as renewable energy, while disincentivizing activities that contribute to environmental degradation.

Dr. Twumasi emphasized,



This highlights the importance of participatory governance in tax matters.



## Challenges in Taxation

**Globalization and the Digital Economy;** Adapting tax systems to address challenges posed by digital services and tax avoidance strategies is crucial. “We must rethink our taxation strategies in light of the digital economy,” Dr. Twumasi explained, underscoring the need for contemporary frameworks to address evolving economic landscapes.

**Tax Revenue Disparities;** African countries often experience lower tax-to-GDP ratios compared to other regions. Dr. Twumasi pointed out that this disparity indicates

systemic challenges in revenue collection and management, calling for reforms to strengthen tax systems in these nations.

### Feminist and Intersectional Approach:

The session discussed the necessity of integrating a feminist perspective into tax policy, ensuring that policies do not disproportionately burden women and consider the gendered impacts of taxation. “Taxation must be inclusive and equitable,” she asserted, emphasizing the need for gender-responsive budgeting.

## Debt Justice

The session concluded with a focus on debt justice, where Dr. Twumasi outlined the increasing debt levels in Africa and the implications for development.

## Debt Situation in Africa

Since 2008, Africa has seen a significant rise in debt levels, predominantly in ten countries. Long-term debt from private creditors is becoming increasingly prevalent. Dr. Twumasi noted, "This crisis is not just about numbers; it affects the very lives of people in these countries," emphasizing the human impact of economic decisions. Structural factors, such as reliance on primary commodities, have contributed to this crisis. Dr. Twumasi remarked that historical legacies of colonialism and economic mismanagement have perpetuated cycles of debt.

## Global Financial System

The need for reform in the global debt architecture was emphasized. "We must advocate for unconditional debt cancellation and greater transparency in negotiations," Dr. Twumasi stated, calling for a reevaluation of how debt is managed on an international scale. The **Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)** initiative and the **Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI)** were discussed as frameworks aimed at providing debt relief, though challenges remain in ensuring sustainable solutions for affected countries.



## Advocacy and Action

1. Participants were encouraged to push for reforms that strengthen Africa's role in global governance and promote equitable debt management strategies. "The voices of the marginalized must be heard in these discussions," Dr. Twumasi concluded, highlighting the importance of inclusivity in policymaking.
2. The importance of women's representation in financial decision-making was reiterated. "Inclusive approaches to debt and fiscal policy are essential for sustainable development," she stressed, advocating for diverse voices in economic governance.
3. Day 3 provided a comprehensive exploration of financing for development, tax justice, and debt justice. The discussions emphasized the interconnectedness of these themes in addressing global inequalities. Participants left with a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding development finance, tax justice, and the urgency for advocacy to achieve systemic change. The insights shared throughout the day reinforced the critical role of feminist perspectives in shaping equitable policies and highlighted the importance of inclusive participation in decision-making processes.



## DAY FOUR

### Trade and Investment Policies

The session focused on trade and investment policies within the African context, highlighting the unique challenges and opportunities Africa faces in the global economy. Dr. Priscilla Twumasi delivered an insightful introduction to the fundamental concepts of trade and their connection to Africa's economic growth and development. She began by discussing the idea of a "Closed Economy," which refers to a system where a country does not participate in international trade, relying solely on its domestic resources and markets. Historically, many African economies operated as closed systems, but globalization has significantly shifted this approach.



Dr. Twumasi contrasted this with the concept of an "Open Economy," one that actively engages in international trade by exporting domestically produced goods and importing foreign goods. She further explained the crucial distinction between exports—goods and services produced locally and sold abroad—and imports, which are products made in other countries and consumed domestically. A key takeaway from her presentation was the need for African countries to move beyond exporting raw materials and focus on producing and exporting value-added goods to strengthen their economic position.

**“Due to political existence, Africa suffers from using one currency. This fragmentation weakens Africa’s collective bargaining power in global trade.”**  
- Dr. Priscilla Twumasi

In her recommendations on trade policy, Dr. Twumasi emphasized the need for African countries to implement strategies that add value to their exports, particularly by processing raw materials domestically before exporting. This approach, she argued, would allow African nations to capture a larger share of the value in the global supply chain and support the drive towards industrialization.

Dr. Twumasi also highlighted several factors influencing trade. Consumer preferences, both domestic and foreign, play a critical role in determining the demand for local products versus imports. Price differences

between domestic and international markets can significantly impact trade flows, where higher foreign prices encourage exports and lower foreign prices boost imports. Exchange rates were also noted as an important factor, with fluctuations affecting the competitiveness of exports and the affordability of imports. Additionally, government policies—such as tariffs, subsidies, and trade agreements—shape the flow of goods and services between nations.

Finally, Dr. Twumasi discussed the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA), which seeks to create a unified market across the continent. While it holds great potential, she pointed out the significant challenges that need to be addressed, such as infrastructure deficits, the harmonization of policies, and capacity building, before the full benefits of ACFTA can be realized.



# Climate Change and Inequality – Public Private Partnerships (PPP)

**Facilitator: Ms. Sonia Phalatse and Ms. Yamina Ouldali**

In this session, Ms Sonia Phalatse explored the role of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in tackling pressing global challenges, including climate change, gender inequality, and sustainable development. Sonia provided a comprehensive overview of PPPs, emphasizing their growing significance in delivering large infrastructure projects and public services traditionally handled by the government.

Ms. Sonia defined PPPs as long-term contracts between the public and private sectors, often supported by the government, used to finance and deliver services or infrastructure projects. A key benefit of PPPs is their ability to help financially constrained governments—those with high debt levels or lacking capital—undertake large-scale initiatives by leveraging private sector investment.



“  
PPPs  
often displace communities  
and undermine access to  
essential care services.

- Sonia Phalatse

She outlined the three main pillars of PPPs, as recognized by the World Bank’s “Billions to Trillions” initiative. First, public funds, such as taxes, user fees, and government guarantees, are used to attract private investment, especially in long-term projects like healthcare infrastructure and education. Second, the standardization of PPP contracts and regulatory frameworks is vital for replicating successful models across different sectors and regions. Lastly, information disclosure plays a crucial role in ensuring transparency and accountability, with clear and standardized information on PPP contracts being essential for public oversight.

However, Ms. Sonia also addressed the critiques surrounding PPPs. One concern is the potential for corporate capture of public services, where private companies prioritize profits over public welfare, leading to higher costs for users. Environmental risks are another issue, as PPPs may lack stringent accountability measures, particularly in large-scale infrastructure projects, potentially resulting in harm to the environment. PPPs can sometimes reduce access to essential services, such as healthcare, especially for marginalized communities, as private sector involvement can lead to increased costs and limited affordability.

Ms. Sonia concluded the discussion on PPPs by highlighting alternatives that could maintain the state’s role in delivering essential services. She suggested that increasing the public provision of services and utilizing government budgets to prioritize sustainable health and education systems would better protect public priorities. These alternatives focus on ensuring that essential services remain accessible to all, with the government directly managing and funding initiatives without relying on private sector involvement.



## Climate Change – Myths and Realities

Ms Emilia Reyes led a session that debunked common myths surrounding climate change, specifically in the African context. She emphasized the unequal distribution of its impacts, pointing out that marginalized communities, particularly women, are disproportionately affected. Reyes stressed that climate change is not a distant issue but a current crisis, causing droughts, food insecurity, and displacement across Africa.

### Key Myths Debunked:

- **Myth:** Climate change is a distant problem.  
**Reality:** Climate change is already affecting African communities, contributing to droughts, food insecurity, and population displacement.
- **Myth:** Climate change impacts all people equally.  
**Reality:** Women, especially in rural areas, who are responsible for securing water, food, and fuel, face greater challenges due to climate change.

## Climate Change’s Gendered Impacts:

Reyes explained how climate change deepens gender inequalities, particularly affecting women who depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. In rural areas, women bear the brunt of climate-related challenges, as they are primarily responsible for household survival tasks, such as gathering food and water. Reyes framed climate change as a human rights issue, stating,



## Group Exercise on PPPs – Case Studies and Reflections

In this session, participants were divided into groups and given case studies on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to analyze. The objective was to answer key questions and reflect on the impact of PPPs on public service provision, costs, and gender equality.

### Key Questions:

- What caused the privatization of services in the case studies?
- Were there any cost implications for users and the government?
- How did the privatization of services affect access to public goods?
- What specific impacts did PPPs have on **gender equality** and **women’s rights**?

### Group Reflections:

- Participants observed that while PPPs can improve infrastructure, they often lead to **increased costs** for public services, making them less accessible to marginalized groups, including women.
- Many noted that the privatization of healthcare services, in particular, can lead to a decline in quality and availability for lower-income communities.

## DAY FIVE

### Closing Remarks by Memory Kachambwa, Executive Director, FEMNET

The closing ceremony of the AFMA Meeting 2024 was led by Memory Kachambwa, who delivered an inspiring speech that encapsulated the key takeaways from the sessions. She expressed her gratitude to the participants for their active involvement and urged continued collaboration to push forward the feminist agenda across Africa. Memory stressed the importance of crafting **inclusive economic policies** that recognize and value women's contributions while addressing the systemic inequalities they face. She also called for **ongoing advocacy** on critical issues discussed throughout the meeting, including **gender equality in trade**, the role of **PPPs**, and the **fight against climate change**.









**AFRICAN FEMINIST MACROECONOMIC ACADEMY**  
The Audacity to Disrupt

# EXPLORING FEMINIST APPROACHES TO FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

## AFMA REGIONAL - 2024 REPORT

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 FEMNET Secretariat  
 @femnetprog  
 FEMNET1  
 FEMNET Secretariat

12 Masaba Road, Lowerhill   
P.O. Box 54562-00200 Nairobi, Kenya   
+254 20 2712971/2   
admin@femnet.or.ke   
www.femnet.org 